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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Ankara wants UN inspectors for Kirkuk - Vatan
US nuclear weapons kept in Turkey - Aksam
US keeps 90 nuclear bombs in Incirlik Airbase - Vatan
Greek Cypriot opposition leader: We want a bi-zonal, bi-communal solution in Cyprus - Milliyet
Rice warns Iran from Europe - Hurriyet
Rice wants to turn a new page with Europe - Turkiye
Sharon may visit Ramallah - Aksam
Next Sharon-Abbas meeting in Ramallah - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Europe a nuclear depot for the US - Radikal
US keeps 480 missiles in 6 European countries - Cumhuriyet
Iraqi election results to be announced late February - Yeni Safak
Turkish MFA claims 'irregularities' in Iraqi elections - Yeni Safak
NYT: US may intervene in Kirkuk against the Kurds - Zaman
Peace hopes gear up in Middle East - Zaman

BRIEFING

Ankara 'Evaluates' US Requests for Using Incirlik AB:
Turkish MFA Spokesman Namik Tan confirmed at a weekly press conference on Wednesday US requests for using the Incirlik Airbase in southern Turkey as a logistical cargo hub. 'Americans want to use Incirlik within the framework of UN regulations,' Tan said. Tan noted that Ankara is evaluating the request.

MFA Complains of Iraq Election Results: The MFA said Wednesday that some 'irregularities' occurred in the Iraqi elections. Spokesman Namik Tan said that the participation of some Iraqi groups was not at the desired level, and urged the Iraqi administration to take steps to make up for irregularities in the January 30 elections in order to ensure the political representation of all ethnic and religious groups, papers report. 'As neighbors of Iraq, it is our right to pay attention to Iraq and this has nothing to do with interference in internal affairs,' Tan said.

FM Gul Welcomes Israel-Palestine Ceasefire: FM Abdullah Gul welcomed the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire agreement at the Sharm-el-Sheikh summit at a news conference in Ankara on Wednesday. Both sides' decision for forming a security cooperation committee, Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian cities, and the release of Palestinian prisoners are positive developments, Gul stressed. Gul reportedly said that Turkey will provide training for Palestinian security forces, and increase and diversify aid to the Palestinians.

PKK Preparing for Attacks in Turkey: PKK/Kongra Gel is preparing for fresh attacks in Turkey before a possible joint operation by the US and Turkey for removal of the terror organization from the region, "Cumhuriyet" says. Murat Karayilan, a high-level PKK official who is expected to take over the terror organization's leadership during 'Nevruz' celebrations late March, has reportedly ordered the attacks against military and economic targets in major Turkish cities. The PKK is busy smuggling militant groups and hundreds of pounds of C-4 explosives to southeastern Turkish provinces Diyarbakir, Tunceli and Bingol, says the paper. Meanwhile, "Zaman" says that Washington has launched an investigation into the PKK's financial resources. A decision to that end had been taken at the tripartite US-Turkey-Iraq security summit in Ankara last month, says "Zaman."

Greek Cypriot Opposition Leader in Turkey: Nicos

Anastassiades, head of the Democratic Rally Party (DISI), the main opposition in Greek Cyprus, called for reconciliation between Turkey and Cyprus, and voiced support for Turkey's drive to join the European Union, Turkish papers report. Anastassiades came to Istanbul Wednesday as the official guest of the ruling AK Party. "It is time to close the traumatic and painful chapter of Cyprus once and for all, and I'm confident that we can together win the future," he told a conference in Istanbul. FM Abdullah Gul said Wednesday that Ankara would not recognize Nicosia until a lasting settlement is reached on the partitioned island. Commenting on Anastassiades' remarks Tuesday urging the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus, Gul reminded that Greek Cypriots had rejected a UN-backed peace plan which envisaged pulling troops out of Cyprus. Turkish troop deployment in Cyprus is based on international agreements, Gul stressed. Anastassiades is scheduled to meet with Gul and other AKP leaders in Ankara on Thursday and with Erdogan in Istanbul on Saturday. He will also see Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew.

US Has Nuclear Bombs Across Europe: All Turkish papers carry a "New York Times" article claiming that the US has 480 nuclear weapons in six military bases across Europe. A report by the Natural Resources Defense Council says the existence of such weapons damaged efforts of nuclear non-proliferation. The US keeps 90 of the bombs at Incirlik Airbase, 40 of which are under Turkey's control, says the report.

Armenian Delegation Visits Ankara: An Armenian delegation visited the Ankara Chamber of Commerce (ATO) on Wednesday, papers report. Armenian Youth Party leader Sargis Asatryan said Turkey today is a democratic country and rejected "common talk" claiming the killing of some one million Armenians by Ottoman forces in 1915. "We don't want France or the United States to intervene in relations between Armenia and Turkey," Asatryan reportedly said.

Majority of Turks Want EU Membership - Survey: A survey conducted by the Turkish State Statistics Institute shows that 70.2 percent of Turks will vote for European Union (EU) membership, and only 16.2 against, if a referendum is held.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Rice in Europe; Middle East
"Condi Is Trying to Conquer Hearts"
Sami Kohen commented in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (2/10): "Can we talk about the repair of ties between France and the US, especially the recent statements regarding 'a new stage in relations' and 'working together.' By looking at statements from Condoleezza Rice during her European tour, including in Berlin and Paris, we can conclude that the crack in the transatlantic alliance is the process of being repaired. Secretary Rice rushed to Europe right after her confirmation, giving a strong indication of the US desire to repair ties. . Yet it remains to be seen whether statements by Rice actually indicate a genuine policy change in the Bush Administration. Nevertheless, it is plausible to think about a change. The same is true of Europe, particularly France. Paris seems to be more flexible and realistic on the Iraq issue than ever before."

"A New Chapter?"
Hadi Uluengin commented in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (2/10): "It was interesting that Rice talked about 'opening a new chapter' shortly after she started her Paris visit. Her approach might be an indication of a more flexible policy line in the second Bush administration. At this stage, deeds are needed more than the words in order to believe that this is the case. It is certain, however, that there is in both the US and Europe the desire to open a new chapter. Secretary Rice very rightfully highlighted the common values shared by America and Europe, which put her diplomatic approach onto the right track. As the US and Europe prepare for a new chapter in their ties, another brand-new chapter has appeared in the Middle East. The Israel-Palestine peace is good news for the whole world and for the relationship between the US and Europe."

"The Peace Winds in Middle East Strengthens Bush's Power"
Hakan Celik commented in the mass appeal "Posta" (2/10): "The summit in Egypt brought very important results for peace in the Middle East. Israel and Palestine promised to stop attacks on one another. Now, the whole world wonders whether these promises will be kept. It is a positive development for the US that a peace agreement was reached during Condoleezza Rice's Middle East tour. This will be registered as a positive mark for Rice, and the Bush Administration's activity in the region will increase. The international community urges the US to not open a new war front before the Palestinian-Israeli issue is solved. Current developments will help the Bush Administration increase pressure on Syria and Iran. As host of the summit, Egyptian President Mubarak announced that as a good will gesture he will appoint an ambassador to Israel. The ruling

AKP of Turkey put distance between itself and Israel in order to get closer to the Arabs. Naturally this policy negatively affected Turkish-Israeli bilateral ties and eliminated the possibility of Turkey playing a role in solving the Israel-Arab dispute. Thus, when Turkey offered to become a mediator in the Middle East dispute and to host a summit, it was not accepted by either side."

EDELMAN